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Dear friends,

This year marks the 25th year anniversary of the founding of the Albert Einstein Institution. From the Baltics to the Balkans, from Latin America to southern Africa, from Tibet to Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, the Albert Einstein Institution has influenced struggles for more open societies, democracy and justice, sometimes decisively so.

Significant changes have taken place in the quarter century since our founding, both at the Institution and in the world around us. However, our mission remains the same. That is to expand the use of nonviolent action as a substitute for war and passivity in conflicts, and to make resources and tools for its use available to individuals and groups worldwide.

We are a small organization with a global footprint. In the year since we last wrote to you, we have witnessed a number of exciting new developments here at the Albert Einstein Institution. As a supporter of our work, we are writing to bring you up to date on some of these developments and achievements. Your past support is deeply appreciated by our staff and Board, and by the groups who rely on us. We ask that you continue that support so that we may also continue and, if possible, expand our programs, research, and writings.

Despite our small staff and extremely modest budget, we have been making major inroads in terms of the impact of our activities and publications worldwide, and in the recognition our work has received from individuals, groups, and the international and domestic media.

It is remarkable that our tiny organization can have such a monumental impact. Our exploration of the reasons for this impact makes it difficult to ignore the provisional conclusion of the quality and content of our work, the existence of its great need, and an increasingly violent world among which there are a growing number of individuals and groups who are beginning to understand that violence is in fact often counter-productive in terms of achieving the objectives of those who use it. There are important examples of groups who might otherwise choose violence or passive submission to attempt to deal with their problems, but who have instead been accessing information about nonviolent action, and exploring its potential for their own situations.

The following is an overview of some important developments of which you should be aware. We will be pleased to provide more detail on several of these points, if you wish to be in touch with us.

Policy and Outreach

- In August, during the Georgian crisis, several individuals and groups wrote to us to inquire whether we had available written material that might be of interest to Georgians. This prompted us in late August to send a letter containing links to publications about anti-coup resistance and civilian-based defense. The letter was sent in email form to nearly 1,200 Georgian individuals and organizations, including government bodies, human rights organizations, political parties, foreign missions inside Georgia, and Georgian embassies and consulates abroad. Although we received acknowledgments and expressions of thanks in response from only a small number of those, there are indications that the letter was circulated widely and that many found the information included in it to be extremely relevant and important to them.
- Beginning in October 2007, and over the course of many months, Gene Sharp and the Albert Einstein Institution conducted correspondence in response to a request to hold a series of meetings for an opposition group that wished to plan its own campaign to bring about major democratic change in their country. The inquiry required significant consideration and new thinking from Gene Sharp that was expressed in a series of letters with that group. This correspondence was eventually compiled into the document described below titled “Notes on Strategic Planning for Removing Dictatorships and Other Oppression”.

After careful thought and planning, a major three day workshop was conducted for persons from that group. Gene Sharp, with Jamila Raqib observing, met with the individuals for three days to discuss the questions and issues they raised in response to their reading of AEI material. The meeting was intended to be a preliminary step in the group’s preparation of a grand strategy for their own planned campaign. Please note that we do not tell anyone what they should do or give specific instructions. Rather we attempt to guide groups to plan their own strategies.

New Writings

- AEI Senior Scholar Gene Sharp has completed work on his dictionary of nonviolent action and related fields. This important new work, which is the product of more than five decades of work, is described as a “technical dictionary of recommended usage and definitions”. The dictionary contains 823 defined terms and 992 entries (some of which refer to other entries). It is now awaiting publication pending the addition of a Foreword, and selection of a title.

- We have recently completed the final draft of a new document provisionally titled “Notes on Strategic Planning for Removing Dictatorships and Other Oppression”. It is a guide for groups worldwide that wish to plan their own strategies for liberation. We are currently exploring publication arrangements for this extremely useful and potentially significant document. In addition to printing it in monograph form, we plan to distribute the publication widely, including through web promotion.

Translations

- Since the preparation of the Arabic translation of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* by Gene Sharp in 2004, we have not had sufficient funding for its printing. However, this important edition is slated to be published by a Lebanon-based publishing house in the coming months for distribution in Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East.
- In December 2007, a Farsi language edition of a combined book consisting of Gene Sharp’s publication *There Are Realistic Alternatives*, along with about one half of *On Strategic Nonviolent Struggle*, by Robert Helvey, were published by Roshangaran Publishers of Iran.
- A Pashto language edition of *From Dictatorship to Democracy* has been printed in Peshawar, Pakistan for distribution among Pashto speaking populations in the North-west Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan and in Afghanistan. Pashto is the language spoken by the Pashtuns who reside predominantly in this region. The Pashtuns are the same group who waged a disciplined nonviolent struggle from the 1920’s through the 1940’s when the area was ruled by the British Empire.

We are receiving reports that the publication is being well received, and is already circulating widely in this extremely politically volatile region.

- The Tibetan translation of *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, prepared many months ago and available in printed form, has been illegally transported into Tibet and has been circulating among students and activists.

Media and Publicity

- The enclosed article from *The Wall Street Journal* is a recent important example of new positive recognition for our work. The article features a major front-page story about Gene Sharp, the Albert Einstein Institution, and our work.

This is an extremely significant development in recognition for the field of nonviolent action, and specifically, for the Institution. It has already brought considerable attention to our work from diverse individuals and organizations.

For example, in the weeks since the article appeared, we have received more than 65 orders for our publications, as well as numerous inquiries and requests for information. In addition to an increase in demand for our published material, we expect that there will be some additional important consequences.

- In the past year since we've written to you, in addition to the piece in *The Wall Street Journal*, articles about and references to the Albert Einstein Institution, its Senior Scholar, or one of its publications appeared in media sources including *The Huffington Post*, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *The Financial Times*, *The Phoenix*, *truthout.org*, numerous international blogs, *Derafsh Television* (Iran), *Voice of America* Persian-language television, and *BBC World Service*.

Critiques and Responses

- An article titled "An Investigation into Fake U.S. Think Tanks: The Second CIA in Operation," was published in late December 2007 on the website of the bi-weekly *Globe Magazine*, *Huanqiu*. The article asserts that the U.S. through various organizations is seeking to subvert foreign governments, and points to the Albert Einstein Institution's involvement in Burma as one supposed example of this.
- In February, the Ministry of Interior of Iran aired a video on Iranian state-owned television which featured John McCain, George Soros and Senior Scholar Gene Sharp in a short animated piece discussing the overthrow of the Iranian regime. Gene Sharp was described as "one of the CIA agents in charge of America's infiltration into other countries." The video can be viewed at <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1678.htm>
- In addition to the two points outlined above, there is a new development surrounding the challenges of conducting this work in the face of the often unfair critical evaluations it has received. As you may recall from our last correspondence, over the past nearly two year period, the Albert Einstein Institution and Gene Sharp have been attacked as supposed tools of the U.S. government in a series of letters and articles published online in various internet websites and publications. We responded to a number of these articles in order to correct various misconceptions and inaccuracies they contained. However, we felt strongly that spending a significant portion of time defending ourselves from these baseless accusations would place an intolerably heavy burden on our already pressured schedules. We therefore posted several open letters and statements on our website and proceeded to continue our work.

In the meantime, Dr. Stephen Zunes, Professor of Politics and International Studies at the University of San Francisco prepared an open letter that was signed by 138 members of the academic and activist community worldwide.

The letter states that the charges that have appeared on a number of websites are categorically false, and do a great disservice to the multitudes of people who have “placed their bodies on the line for freedom and justice to think for themselves or play a decisive role in determining their own nations’ future.” We have enclosed a full text of the letter and a list of signators of that letter with this mailing. For a web version of the letter, please see our website <http://www.aeinstein.org>.

With the above letter on the one hand, and *The Wall Street Journal* piece on the other, we have two extremely strong forms of support and recognition for our work. Coincidentally, it appears that a combination of these two has succeeded in causing an almost complete cessation in the appearance and circulation of unfounded attacks and allegations about the Albert Einstein Institution and Gene Sharp.

These two pieces together also constitute an important example of the *transpartisan* approach of our work. This term, coined by former Executive Director Bruce Jenkins, refers to the manner of presenting nonviolent struggle without linking it to any ideological or political group, or perspective, so that it potentially may be viewed as acceptable to individuals and groups holding views across the political spectrum.

These are only some of the events, activities, and developments that have occurred this year. We could not have accomplished any of these without the past generous financial support of our contributors.

The support that this important work merits is evident in the profound thirst for this information among diverse groups on almost every continent. What do an attorney in Pakistan, a professor in Russia, a student in the Philippines, advocates of democracy in the Middle East, and an activist in Equatorial Guinea have in common? They have each written to us, visited our office, or otherwise been in touch with us to submit questions, request information, or express interest in the potential of nonviolent action to deal with their difficult political situations.

The numbers of such individuals and groups, and the demand for our publications and services are growing year after year. We are confident that if we can tell our story to a wider audience, sooner or later a breakthrough will happen.

Our objective therefore is to expand. We need your support at this time to continue, improve, and strengthen our programs, publications, and activities. We are still here because of support from you. We are especially grateful to a few individuals who included this work in their estates in order to continue their contributions after they were no longer here to send us their good wishes and checks personally.

We operate extremely frugally--we are vastly understaffed, our rent-free office is too small, we wait for months to print important new publications, and we are postponing

the purchase of important new office equipment. We often operate under extreme stress. It is crucial that we expand in order to meet the challenges before humanity.

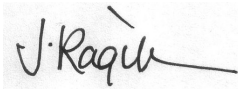
The work of the Albert Einstein Institution merits your generous financial support. People rely on us to provide them with literature--the very literature that contains the ideas that allow them to see that the means of self-liberation are before them, if they only can think clearly, plan wisely, and proceed carefully.

The feedback we receive is humbling and reminds us of the reasons we continue this vital work. People count on us to be here, and in turn, we count on you. It is your support that makes this work possible and allows it to be available and to continue.

After decades of groundbreaking and critical work, it appears that we are finally receiving indications that a breakthrough is coming-- one that will put nonviolent means of struggle in the forefront of discussion on issues of relevance to the future of our world. Please join us in our efforts towards creating a healthier, more just, and less violent world.

As always, thank you very much for your support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Raqib", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jamila Raqib
Executive Director